BELGRADE - BROOTEN - ELROSA
Hall of Fame

Saturday, January 29, 2022

Lyle E. Miller  Bud Heidgerken
Dr. James Mohs  Roger Lindahl
Charles Sagerahl  Emily Reetke
Wayne Huffman  Heidi (Lensing) Weller

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE INDUCTEES

Congratulations to the 2021 Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa Hall of Fame inductees. Your achievements are impressive and worthy of praise. You represent the best of our communities and of what has become BBE Schools. We are honored to have you here for this event.

This induction program marks the third of its kind starting in 2015. Currently the classes of 2015 and 2018 include fifteen individuals and we are proud to add eight more.

We know that participation in extracurricular activities contributes to valuable life lessons and promotes teamwork, sportsmanship, hard work and discipline. The leadership skills and self-confidence last a lifetime.

We invite you to support the BBE Hall of Fame with monetary donations but also with nominations of future inductees. Monetary donations can be sent to the BBE Elementary School, PO Box 39, Brooten, MN 56316. Nomination forms can be found on the school website at www.bbejaguars.org.

Again, congratulations inductees! This is your night. Enjoy it!

Sincerely,

Rick Gossen, Activities Director
Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa Schools

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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fastpitch team. She batted .450 as a senior and was a career .325 hitter with six home runs, 90 RBI and 121 stolen bases.

Zach Nelson, who coached her in 11th and 12th grade, said, “Emily has a better arm and range than any girl we’ve played against. She is extremely fast and can dominate the game in all phases.”

At B-B-E, Roelike was part of 56 fastpitch softball wins, 59 basketball wins and 114 volleyball wins.

In college, Roelike shined on Ridgewater College national tournament-bound volleyball and fastpitch teams from 2009 through 2011 (2010 volleyball champion).

Weller enjoyed a prolific four-year Division II volleyball career at Minnesota State University-Moorhead, where she lettered all four years and holds the fourth-most kills of any Dragons volleyball player (1,283 kills).

Post-college years

Weller and Roelike have both settled back to earth after college in their own unique way.

Roelike graduated from SCSU with a B.S. in Recreation and Sports Management. She wore multiple hats while working about three years at the Municipal Athletic Complex through 2016. She was then a rough mill operator at Woodcraft Industries until March 2019. Since then, she’s been with Cold Spring Carpet as an installer.

“Growing up on a farm and as an athlete, I really enjoy the hands-on aspect of my job and the physical work. I have a drive for it and absolutely love it,” she said.

In the winter, Roelike plays in a women’s volleyball league. Her biggest passion remains softball, but now it’s slowpitch from spring through fall each year.

“I’m in women’s league in Cold Spring on Wednesdays. On the weekends I’m in a tournament team that travels and plays many of the top teams in Minnesota.”

Roelike’s team is a Class C team but regularly plays Class A teams from Minnesota and other states.

After her college days, Weller married her high school sweetheart, Shane, in June 2014 at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Elrosa.

Shane is an agronomist for Centrol, and they live in rural Glenwood with their two young children: Abram turns four on January 29, which is the Hall of Fame banquet day, his sister Elizabeth is one-and-a-half years old.

Weller earned a Business Administration degree at MSUM with an emphasis on Management and a minor in hospitality and tourism management.

From MSUM, Weller worked in the banking industry for five years before switching gears to work at Minnewaska Area schools as a Community Education/Activities Administrative Assistant.

“I really enjoyed the Community Education part of my job so I decided to go back to school to earn my license to become a Community Education Director,” she said.

“I just finished up my schooling December of 2021. However, in May of 2021, I made a tough decision to quit a job I loved to stay at home with my children while they were young. I enjoy being able to play with them daily and watch them grow! When I return to the work force, I hope to obtain a position in the Community Education department again.”

Weller shared a memorable lesson she learned from volleyball coach Kevin Weller, who coached her teams to state in 2007 and 2008.

“Kevin’s lesson was simply to have fun. He would often say this as his last words in a time out. I think this is not only a great lesson for volleyball, but for life.”

“It’s not all about being the best, it’s about our attitudes and how we each can make any experience in life a fun one.”

Written by Randy Olson, Bonanza Valley Voice
Heidi (Lensing) Weller and Emily Roelike are 2009 B-B-E graduates who left an unforgettable mark on Jaguar girls’ athletics while making profound impacts on three sports each. Roelike was an integral part of 13 varsity teams between 2005 and 2009. In that stretch, she played on 229 games, including 114 in volleyball.

Weller graduated as B-B-E’s most decorated girls’ track and field student-athlete with four Class 1A All-State medals and a string of conference, sub-section and section titles.

Weller and Roelike were part of an incredible run in volleyball where the team qualified for state three out of four years in 2005, 2007 and 2008.

The dynamic duo also started on a highly successful girls’ basketball team, with Roelike lettering four years and Weller lettering three years between 2005 and 2009. Between 2005 and 2009, the girls’ basketball team won 59 games and played in three Sub-Section AA-East semifinal games.

Roelike started at shortstop for five seasons on the spring fastpitch softball team and earned All-State honors as a senior. The program played in the Section 5A Final Four in 2007 and 2008 while winning the only fastpitch sub-section title in school history in 2008.

Dairy farm girls
Both Weller and Roelike were raised on small dairy farms that provided no shortage of work when school and sports weren’t consuming their time. Weller is the youngest child of Roy and Sandy Lensing, organic dairy farmers with a 67-cow herd when she was in school.

Roelike, daughter of Joel and Joyce Roelike of rural Lake Henry, was raised on a 67-cow dairy farm. Her family sold the milk raised on small dairy farms that provided no shortage of work when school and sports weren’t consuming their time.

In track and field, Weller was a four-time letter winner. Weller earned three All-State medals with top-eight finishes across three seasons in the high jump or long jump. As a sophomore, Weller took fifth place at the 2007 state long jump event. As a junior, Weller placed eighth out of the final 16 athletes to earn All-State hardware as a junior in the high jump.

As a senior, Weller won the Section 5A long jump (17’2”) and high jump (5’2”) titles and later competed in the 2009 state high jump and long jump finals.

At the state meet in her senior year, Weller earned All-State medals in both events: third place (18’2.5”) in the long jump and a tie for fifth place (5’2”) in the high jump.

Weller holds the B-B-E record in the 300 hurdles (48.0) after trying it for the first time as a senior.

In her senior year, Roelike was a first team All-Area Tribune selection with 258 kills and 416 digs. She started in the back row as a freshman with Coach Mimi Knutson when the Jaguars busted down the door to state in November 2005. “Heidi played front row that year,” said Roelike. “As a sophomore, I switched to libero, but my junior year I went back to hitting.”

Just 5’6” tall, Roelike possessed a superb jump. “My vertical was my biggest asset, and I learned the approach I needed to get an attack down.”

Roelike graduated with 1,308 career digs, a record that was just broken this fall past by Emily Kern.

Roelike was a four-year letter winner at guard and graduated with a 67-cow milk herd when she was in school.

Both Weller and Roelike were raised on dairy farms and were integral parts of their families’ businesses.

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Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa Schools would like to congratulate the 2021 inductees of the BBE Hall of Fame. The development of this organization and the elite membership that it will represent was a vision of many past BBE graduates as well as past and present BBE Staff. The monetary donations and volunteer hours that were given on behalf of this vision are remarkable and can never be repaid. Special thanks to Randy Olson from the Bonanza Valley Voice for his part in writing the stories about our inductees.

The 2021 Inductees are...

Lyle E. Miller
Brooten, Class of 1950
Accepted by Glenn Miller, Nephew

Dr. James Mohs
Belgrade, Class of 1964

Charles Sagedahl
Brooten, Class of 1948

Wayne Huffman
Teacher: 1962-1997
Athletic Director: 1970-2000

Emily Roelike
Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa, Class of 2009

Heidi (Lensing) Weller
Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa, Class of 2009

BBE will host a Hall of Fame banquet with new inductees every three years. Looking ahead to 2024, we will need donations in order to make it a reality. Donations for the 2024 banquet can be sent to: BBE Elementary, C/O BBE Hall of Fame, PO. Box 39, Brooten, MN 56316. There is also a basket for a free will donation by the exit after tonight’s banquet. Thank you for your support!
Lyle Miller was a four-sport Brooten Buccaneer athlete during his time at Brooten high school between 1946 and 1950. During that period, he excelled at football, basketball, track and field, and baseball.

Lyle Miller was born on February 19, 1932 in Belgrade. He passed away in Crystal, MN on April 6, 2005 at the age of 73. He was the son of Christian and Elizabeth Miller. Lyle was a graduate of Brooten-Bernard High School and Bemidji State University.

Lyle Miller played basketball for the Brooten Buccaneers during his senior year in 1950. He was a member of the Brooten basketball team that finished third in the state tournament that year.

In the spring of 1947, Lyle juggled his time between the baseball and track and field teams. His ability to balance athletics led to his selection as a Brooten Buccaneers baseball team. As a senior, Lyle was a member of the varsity Buccaneers baseball team.

In the fall of 1948, Brooten's six-man football team went 4-2 while playing in the Corn Belt League. That year, Lyle was one of six returning lettermen from the 1947 squad.

In Week Two against Grove City with their straight-run offense, the Buccaneers got their second touchdown on a screen pass to Lyle Miller. In Week Three against Windom with their Gentleman’s 3-guard spots, the Bucs were loaded with so many good players. Every practice was like playing a game. In four years, I never missed a practice, “I was a full-time starter my junior and senior years,” said Lyle.

Lyle went on to play at Bemidji State University and earned his degree in Business Administration.

Lyle and Rene were married at St. Elizabeth German Catholic Church in Minneapolis. With Rene in Minneapolis, Lyle took a job at Hoerner Box Company in Fridley. From there, the family moved to Chicago where Lyle worked at the Illinois State Bank. In 1985, he and Norene started their business, Lyle Miller and Associates, and worked as an Accounts Payable Supervisor at the Illinois State Bank.

In the fall of 1984, Lindahl did his student teaching at Central High School in Willmar, where he worked with the Saskatchewan Rough Riders in the Canadian Football League. Lindahl has three older siblings: Diane (Rick Gerhardson), Cindy (Kent Benson) and Todd.

Lindahl's career stretched through the pandemic year of 2020-2021, his final year teaching in Benson. Lindahl's career included being a head boys' basketball and football coach, and teaching in the middle school.

Lindahl's family includes Ashley, Aaron and Twins Adam and Andrew, all Bemidji graduates.

Lindahl credited his wife with making it all work. "Stacy loves sports too. That helped. She understood me being away so much. From the start of our family, she packed up the kids when they were young and went with me to Benson." Lindahl stressed the importance of his team mates and coaches, both in high school and college.

"In the one getting this honor, but there are many more pending. Over the years, I've taught many students teams at Bemidji or Concordia. Take basketball. For many years I've been the football  defensive coordinator at Concordia. I remember during my sophomore and junior years in Belgrade with Eve's class. I could see that he had a passion for being a teacher. You could tell it wasn't for job. It was a passion he had. "The influence of Coach Weinricher also stuck with Lindahl throughout his career.

"I remember so many things I tried to mimic from Weinricher’s style and style of play. One thing I could never master was that he was the absolute master at whatever he did and could get anyone to come out and play football."
In the fall of 1970, a young Bud Heidgerken just started his tenure at Brooten high school that lasted 20 years before he jumped head first into the restaurant business in Freeport. In his second year at Abdy, the head wrestling coach quit mid-season. Rather than see the program drop, Heidgerken assumed head coaching for that season and the next greatest accomplishment at Abdy was filling out the 12 weight classes.

Heidgerken had a very busy 1970, starting with marrying Ann Crow Lake Township country school before her family moved to Melrose. Ray and Bernie met at a dance in Spring Hill, and they were married in 1939 and had five children: John, Rose, John, George and Jerry. “My brother Doug ran the candy store and I think he sold all the candy, but we needed more for adults. That’s where everyone, especially the businesses, really learned how to play the game right, and I believe we all grew to love America’s game.”

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Bud Heidgerken giving his speech at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame ceremony in 2003.
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In his third year, Heidgerken faced a challenge. Rather than wait for the kids to come out, Heidgerken found a way to get the kids on the mat and in the tournament. “I remember Amy and Toni Zehrer and Janis Arends working on the mat with handstands and aerial survival skills. The match was held in Brooten in a dual format for the first time in District 20. The gym was packed with over 600 fans.”

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Between the 1970-1971 season and the final year of the Brooten Buccaneers in 1983-1988. Both were great wrestlers in their own right.
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Dr. James Mols and his wife, Nancy, pictured at St. John’s Abbey Church.
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In every Brooten wrestling season, Heidgerken was a dedicated assistant coach who worked as hard as the head coach. “I would jump in with both feet and do the same stuff. I was second to none. I was mostly a getting of putting picking.”

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In the fall of 1985, Minnesota Governor愉快ly announced that Heidgerken would be the head wrestling coach position.
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Charles Sagedahl trained in San Diego and Camp Pendleton. He fought on the front line with the Third Battalion, 5th Company, and he lost many of his Marine comrades in the mountainous terrain they were in.

When war ended in June 1951, he said, enlisting for the Marine Corps, "I wrote notes of condolences to their families."

A VFC in January 1952, he graduated from the Navy and returned to college. He finished his B.A. degree in Physical Education and History at Concordia College in Moorhead.

Sagedahl first worked at the Oakland YMCA in Oakland Park, and camp director in the Sierra Club in California.

He also taught and coached at Brewer high school in Stanley, Wisconsin, twice at Menahga and at Franklin Junior High in the Minneapolis school district.

Charles Sagedahl is the son of the late Cornell and Opal (Kulak) Sagedahl. Cornell, a milk route driver, carpenter and railroad worker, passed away in 1981 at age 82.

"I think I walked four guys in a row. I lost my control."

Charles Sagedahl of Brooten, affectionately know as "Chuck," is a Brooten Buccaneer, Class of 1948. Written by Randy Olson, Bonanza Valley Voice.

Charles Sagedahl was a coach, teacher, and administrator at Menahga and B-B-E for many years.

"I have always treasured time we could connect and create memories."

Charles Sagedahl graduated, and five of his grandchildren are Menahga graduates. Altogether, Charles and Karen have 20 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and have hopeful expectations to gain two more great-grandchildren in 2022.

"I helped with all kinds of athletic activities, such as preparing the football field, batting cages, baseball and basketball games, working track and wrestling meets and attending all the games."

In addition to college duties, Huffman courted his wife, Carol, a 1959 Wadena high school graduate. They married on August 17, 1959, in Wadena.

"My good friend Tom Smith had an uncle who was a professor at Moorhead State Teachers College. His role as A.D. developed when Dave Sieben, his Belgrade colleague and another class vice-president and treasurer. He was co-captain of the football team as a senior and class vice-president and treasurer. In the yearbook, the class said, "Wayne Huffman continues to stress the ideals of hard work, fair play and sportsmanship.""

For Huffman about his role as athletic director, "I always had a great interest in athletics with limited participation for a student. Once a week a student at B-B-E, I helped with all kinds of athletic activities, such as preparing the football field, batting cages, baseball and basketball games, working track and wrestling meets and attending all the games."

By 1962-1963 the boys' basketball team was coached by Ken Karlson and girls' basketball by Linda Rother.

"The influence of a good friend and role model was evident in my own son of Charles and Joyce (Pike) Huffman, who were Wadena County dairy farmers their whole lives. He has one sibling, younger sister Nichole. He was a good role model for Huffman's family from farm kids who love sports, and that's what the student body at Menahga and B-B-E shared."

Just two years after assuming the Belgrade A.D. position, Huffman's role overseeing the Belgrade and B-B-E teams and girls' basketball, which was held during the fall season. They were led by head coach Pat O'Donnell, Wayne Huffman at a Hall of Fame banquet in 2010. Written by Randy Olson, Bonanza Valley Voice.

Charles Sagedahl of Brooten, affectionately known as "Chuck," is a lifeguard student who enrolled in the Civilian Training Corps at Concordia College in Moorhead.

"I think I walked four guys in a row. I lost my control."

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Mary Huffman, just an eighth grader, ran the third leg of the 4x200 relay in 1957. Belgrade lost in the state quarterfinals.

"My good friend Tom Smith had an uncle who was a professor at Moorhead State Teachers College. As summer went along, Tom convinced me I should give college a try as a business major, so I did."

Huffman earned a B.S. in Social Studies.

"I took English, business and teaching classes, and I earned my degree, Huffman bought out 60 job listings provided to graduates by the college."

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